

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 24 remain in the application and claims 1 and 24 have been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6, 8, and 24 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Ebisawa in view of Min.

Features of the data distribution system according to the present invention are to divide, at an information service center, a desired program into an outline part of a lower quality than the desired program and a supplement part and to transmit the outline part first followed by the supplement part to a terminal equipment.

At the terminal equipment, the outline part is received first followed by the supplement part of the desired program, the outline part and the supplement part are recombined to restore and store the desired program while the supplement part is being received, the lower quality outline part is reproduced while the lower quality outline part is being received, and the reproduction of the lower quality outline part is continued while the supplemental part is being received until the reproduction of the outline part is completed.

Independent claims 1 and 24 have been amended to recite these features of the present invention that are

illustrated in Figs. 6A-B of the present application, for example. See also page 29, lines 12-18 of the present application, for example.

An advantage of these positively recited features of the present invention is that the user of the terminal device can monitor, with a degraded quality, the desired program while the desired program is restored and stored in a hard disk, for example.

It is respectfully submitted that Ebisawa fails to show or suggest the above-noted features of the present invention for the following reasons.

The "control signal" pointed to in the Office Action is not "an outline part" but a program selection signal for selecting a desired video data. It is respectfully submitted that the "control signal" of Ebisawa is unrelated to the recited "outline part for informing a user of an outline of the desired program." Further, the "control signal" of Ebisawa is unrelated to an outline part of a lower quality than the desired program.

Furthermore, the recited transmission means transmits the outline part followed by the supplement part. Ebisawa's transmitter encodes the "control signal" with the video data for transmission and the receiving apparatus decodes the received signal to restore the control signal and the video

data. Therefore, in the system of Ebisawa, the "control signal" and the video data are transmitted and received simultaneously.

Even assuming arguendo that the sequentially stored video data of Ebisawa is the outline part and supplement part, when the first ten minutes of PROGRAM-1 are transmitted after the second ten minutes of PROGRAM1, the system of Ebisawa finishes receiving the latter before completing the reproduction of the former and no recombination is performed.

Min is cited for teaching a receiver for receiving the outline part first followed by the supplement part transmitted by the transmitter of Ebisawa. As discussed above, because Ebisawa does not transmit the outline part first followed by the supplement part, the receiver of Min cannot receive the recited sequence of parts.

Further, the cited "recombiner" of Min is merely a phase-shifter. See col. 2, lines 54-57 of Min.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 24, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Ebisawa in view of Min.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC. 103(a), as being

unpatentable over Ebisawa in view of Min and Kitabatake.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1, which rejection over Ebisawa and Min has been addressed above and, because there are no features in Kitabatake that somehow could be combined with Ebisawa and Min and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is patentably distinct over Ebisawa in view of Min and Kitabatake.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Ebisawa in view of Min and Tsutsui et al.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1, which rejection over Ebisawa and Min has been addressed above and, because there are no features in Tsutsui et al. that somehow could be combined with Ebisawa and Min and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is patentably distinct over Ebisawa in view of Min and Tsutsui et al.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Ebisawa in view of Min and Tsuga et al.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1, which rejection over Ebisawa and Min has been addressed above and, because there are no features in Tsuga et al. that somehow could be

combined with Ebisawa and Min and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is patentably distinct over Ebisawa in view of Min and Tsuga et al.

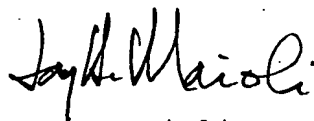
Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Ebisawa in view of Min and Schoen et al..

Claim 7 depends from claim 1, which rejection over Ebisawa and Min has been addressed above and, because there are no features in Schoen et al. that somehow could be combined with Ebisawa and Min and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is patentably distinct over Ebisawa in view of Min and Schoen et al.

The prior art made of record but not relied upon has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the pending claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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